(b) whether the State Government has requested the Planning Commission to sanction additional grants for this region; and

(c) if so, the amount of grant sanctioned during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY) (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c). The Central Plan Assistance to Gujarat State is being given in the form of block grants and block loans at the ratio of 30:70. The Net Central Assistance given to the State during the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 were Rs. 235.00, Rs. 260.50, Rs. 331.08 and Rs. 383.66 crores respectively. No separate grant has been sanctioned for Saurashtra region. The State Government has not asked for any Additional Central Assistance.

[Translation]

Anpara and Obra Power Plants

3816. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of constant breakdown of power in Uttar Pradesh due to some major faults in both the Anpara and Obra power plants;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). During the period April-November'96, the performance at Anpara TPS has been fairly good and it has achieved a PLF of 76.9% Earlier, there were some boiler leakages during 1995-96. The Obra units are very old and under major refurbishment. The PLF of the station during April-November'96 was 24.1%.

(c) and (d). A committee headed by former Member (Generation), UPSEB was constituted by UPSEB to investigate the cause of leakages at Anpara TPS and the Committee included experts from Central Electricity Authority. BHEL and manufacturers. The Committee recommended checking of the thickness of the tubes and also to provide baffles in some areas. These recommendations have been carried out and the plant is performing excellently. The problems at Obra were studied by power station authorities and major reason is that the units are very old and need major refurbishment. UPSEB is trying for their refurbishment and it is hoped that after refurbishment, the station will be able to achieve a PLF of 55%.

[English]

Diversification by Indian Oil Corporation

3817. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) propose to diversify into setting up of port infrastructure including jetties and tankages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other areas identified by the IOC for diversification of its operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Preliminary discussions are being held with State Government and maritime boards, for development of port infra-structure including jetties and tankages by oil companies. No specific project have been firmed up.

Putting up taknages at port locations is an ongoing normal activity of the Oil Industry. Such proposals are approved by the Government under the Additional Product Tankage (APT) Programmes.

(c) The other areas identified by the IOC for diversification of its operations are as below :

1. Exploration and Production of crude oil.
2. Power Projects.
3. Setting up of LNG facilities.
4. Globalisation of Lube sales.
5. Petrochemicals.

Release of Amount by HUDCO

3818. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount so far released during 1996-97 for various housing projects in the country by HUDCO;

(b) out of which, the amount so far released to the housing projects in Karnataka during the above period;

(c) the total amount for housing projects sought for by the Karnataka Government during 1996-97;

(d) the amount proposed to be sanctioned by HUDCO to Karnataka before 31st March, 1997; and

(e) the number of housing projects taken up with HUDCO assistance in Mysore district during 1996-97?